

[(v)] (IV) 1 representative of the Federal Small Business Administration; and

[(vi)] (V) 1 representative from a local chamber of commerce in each region, who is employed by or owns a small business..

(c) The Department shall provide assistance to small businesses, including:

(1) Operation of an information exchange covering current and new technical information and data concerning business investment and marketing trends in this State, management techniques, technological assistance, administrative methods, production techniques, product developments, federal and State legislation and regulations affecting small business, and any other news or information helpful to small businesses; and

(2) Individual consultation and technical assistance to any small business that requests the service. The consultation and assistance may include procurement of investment capital, management, administration, production, product marketing, compliance with governmental regulations, and business expansion, renovation, and diversification.

[12-203.] 5-203.

(a) The Department shall coordinate with federal, State, and local agencies and private organizations to effectuate the purposes of this subtitle, avoid a duplication of services, and solicit and obtain cooperation and any available funds or grants to aid small businesses in this State.

(b) Whenever possible, the Department shall utilize the services of existing governmental, educational, business, industrial, and financial institutions and their personnel on a voluntary basis. Any person who, at the request of the Department, provides voluntary assistance to the Maryland Office of Small Business Assistance shall be reimbursed for travel costs and other reasonable and necessary expenses.

(c) The Department may procure the temporary or intermittent services of organizations, experts, and consultants on a contractual basis.

(d) The Secretary shall make recommendations to the Governor and the General Assembly, relating to the operation of the program, subject to § 2-1312 of the State Government Article, including suggested legislation.

Subtitle 3. Urban Enterprise Zones

[12-301.] 5-301.